AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF LUNG CANCER IN ASBESTOS MINERS*

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Ever since the pronounced increase in the incidence of lung cancer among males became apparent, there have been attempts to associate it with one or another of the various elements in the environment of man. The approach used by some workers has been to suspect one or several substances and then set about in an intensive search for lung cancer among persons who have had any exposure to those materials. In this connection, Smith (62) writes: "The tendency of authors reporting the coincidental occurrence of primary lung cancer with silicosis or with any other theoretical etiologic conditions, has been to emphasize the percentage relationship in extremely small series of cases, with control cases which are not in any way comparable."

It would seem inevitable that asbestos should come under scrutiny in this manner, because prolonged exposure to this material is known to cause a specific type of pneumoconiosis, and because persons who show this form

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